



PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

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Stan Lee PRESENTS:

THE DAGGER AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!

STORY &
LAYOUTS
AL MILGROM

INKS
JIM
MOONEY

LETTERING
DIANA
ALBERS

COLORING
BOB
SHAREN

EDITING
DANNY
FINGEROTH

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
JIM
SHOOTER

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE:
THE BIONIC BODY OF THE
CRIME-LORD, SILVERMANE,
HAS BEEN BROUGHT BACK
FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH.

REVIVED BY THE KINGPIN,
WHO HAD HOPES THAT HE
COULD MANIPULATE THAT
MINDLESS CREATURE
TO ACT AS HIS ASSASSIN,
SILVERMANE SHOWED
DISTURBING TENDENCIES
TO RESIST THE KINGPIN'S
DIRECTIONS.

CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN SILVER-
MANE GOT INVOLVED IN A
BATTLE WITH THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN, DESPITE
BEING ORDERED TO SHOW
RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH
THE WEB-SLINGER, HE BEAT
SPIDEY HALF TO DEATH.

AND THAT BRINGS
US UP TO DATE!

OOH! I ACHIEVE ALL OVER,
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY
SILVERMANE LET ME GO
BEFORE HE FINISHED ME--!

DON'T STRAIN
YOURSELF,
SPIDER. THE
BLACK CAT
WILL SEE THAT
YOU'RE ALL
RIGHT. EASY
DOES IT, NOW!



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MEANWHILE, NOT FAR FROM WHERE THE BLACK CAT SWINGS, SILVERMANE CONTINUES ON HIS BLIND PATH OF DESTRUCTION, SEARCHING, SEEKING... WHAT?

KA-RASH!

LOOK OUT!
THAT THING'S
GOING BERSERK.
GET OUT OF
THE WAY!

HMMF/ HE ACTS AS IF I'M
HELPLESS WITHOUT HIM, BUT
I'LL KEEP MY PROMISE. IF
ONLY BECAUSE GETTING
INVOLVED MIGHT REVEAL
MY CONNECTION TO
THE KINGPIN.

I'D HATE
FOR MY LOVER TO FIND
OUT THAT ONE OF HIS
GREATEST ENEMIES IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING
ME MY CAT-LIKE POWERS.

AND IN THE
SKYSCRAPER
HEADQUARTERS
OF THE KINGPIN...

SO, ANSWER,
THE REMOTE
TELEVISION UNIT
YOU PLACED ON THE
SCENE IS STILL
BROADCASTING
SILVERMANE'S
PROGRESS?

YES, BUT IT
WON'T BE LONG
BEFORE HE IS
OUT OF THE
RANGE OF THE
CAMERA.

ARE YOU SURE
YOU DON'T WANT
ME TO TRY TO
STOP HIM?

NOT
AT THIS
TIME.

I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHERE
WE WENT *WRONG*/ THE SUBMISSION
COLLAR WE PLACED AROUND HIS
NECK SHOULD CAUSE HIM SUFFICIENT
PAIN--EVEN IN HIS PRESENT
LIMITED MENTAL CAPACITY--
TO RESPOND TO OUR ORDERS.

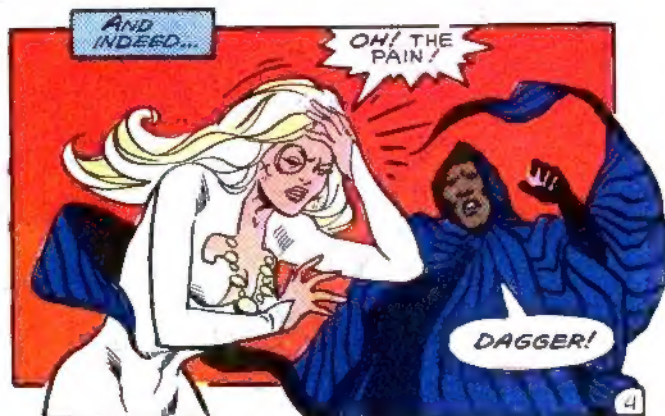
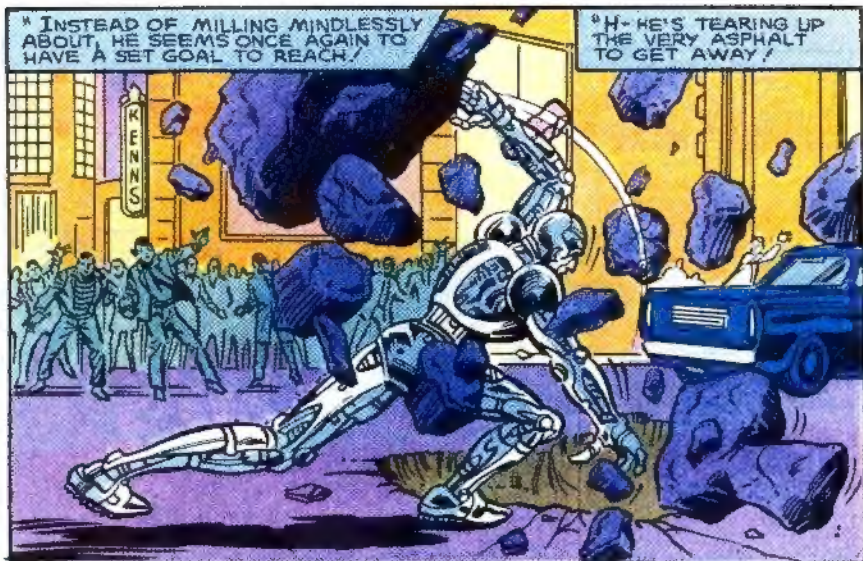
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN
THE MALFUNCTION?

THERE IS NO MAL-
FUNCTION, PER SE.
IT'S AS IF, SOMEHOW,
THERE'S AN OUTSIDE
FORCE THAT CALLS
HIM.

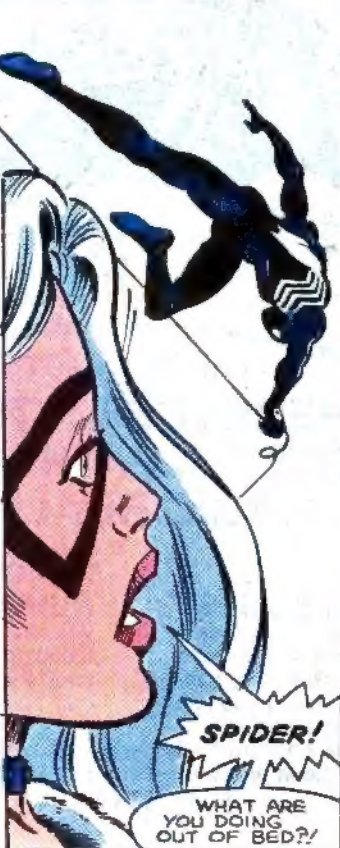
A FORCE GREAT
ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM
IGNORE THE PAIN.

DAGGER!

WHAT HAS SHE
GOT
TO DO WITH THIS,
ANSWER?



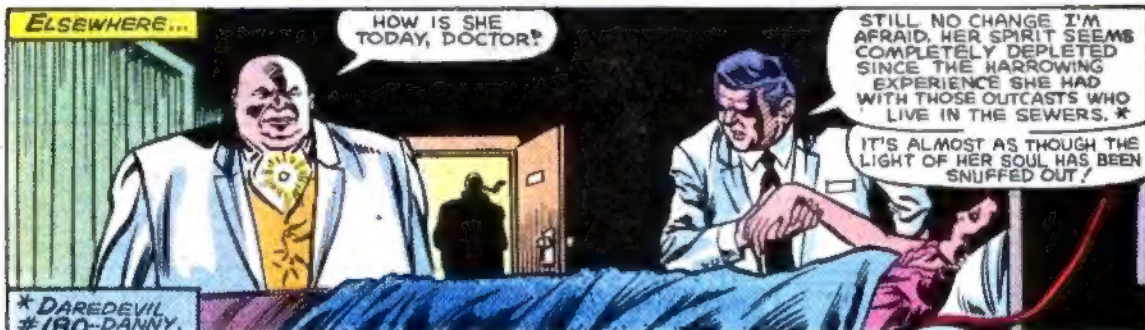






ON OUR WAY TO HIS APARTMENT, HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE GIRL CALLED "DAGGER" BEING THE KEY TO DEFEATING SILVERMANE!

I'VE GOT RESOURCES OF MY OWN. LET'S JUST SEE WHO CAN FIND DAGGER FIRST!



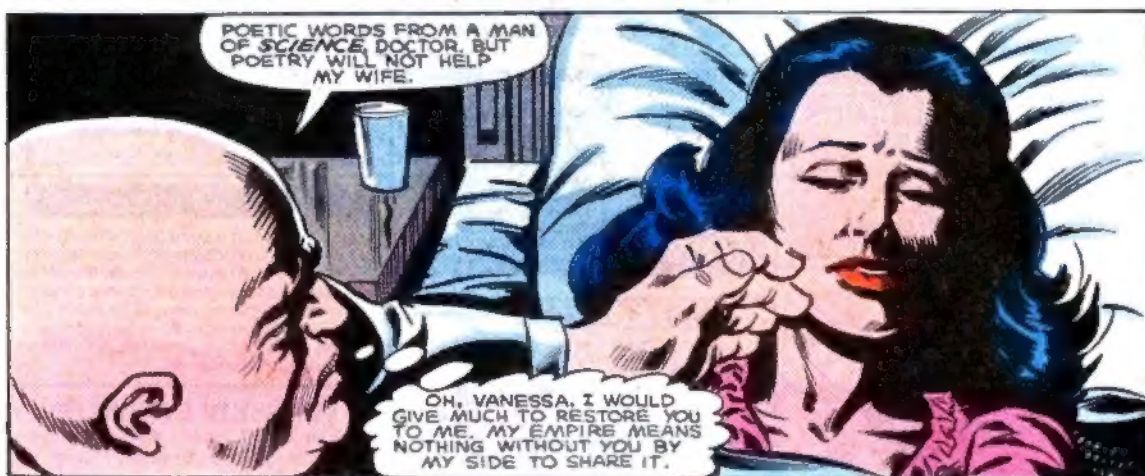
ELSEWHERE...

HOW IS SHE TODAY, DOCTOR?

STILL NO CHANGE I'M AFRAID, HER SPIRIT SEEMS COMPLETELY DEPLETED SINCE THE HARROWING EXPERIENCE SHE HAD WITH THOSE OUTCASTS WHO LIVE IN THE SEWERS. *

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH THE LIGHT OF HER SOUL HAS BEEN SNUFFED OUT!

* DAREDEVIL #180-DANNY.



POETIC WORDS FROM A MAN OF SCIENCE, DOCTOR, BUT POETRY WILL NOT HELP MY WIFE.

OH, VANESSA, I WOULD GIVE MUCH TO RESTORE YOU TO ME. MY EMPIRE MEANS NOTHING WITHOUT YOU BY MY SIDE TO SHARE IT.



KINGPIN.

HMMM? OH, YES, ANSWER, HAVE YOU ACTED ON OUR PLAN TO PRODUCE DAGGER?



YES, I'VE SPOKEN TO THE ROSE. HE DIDN'T SOUND HAPPY ABOUT IT, BUT HE'S GOING AHEAD WITH THE PLAN.

NO, HE WOULDN'T BE HAPPY ABOUT IT. THAT'S PART OF THE REASON I ASSIGNED IT TO HIM.

AS LONG AS HE FOLLOWS MY ORDERS, IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT HIS PERSONAL FEELINGS ARE!

HE HAS AMBITIONS... DANGEROUS AMBITIONS. HE MUST BE SHOWN HIS PLACE.



--A LIGHT JUST BEGINNING TO GLOW ON THE HARD CEMENT YARD OF P.S. 173...

I TELL YA I'M STARTIN' TO FEEL IT BAD, FAST EDDIE!

EASY, BOBBIE. I NEED A FIX AS BAD AS YOU DO, BUT WE GOT NO COIN!

OUR BEST BET IS TO WAIT FOR AN EASY MARK TO COME BY AND HIT ON 'IM FOR SOME CASH?

-- 'CAUSE I HEAR THAT THE HORSE TRAIN IS PULLIN' INTO TOWN FOR ANYONE WITH THE MONEY TO BUY A TICKET.

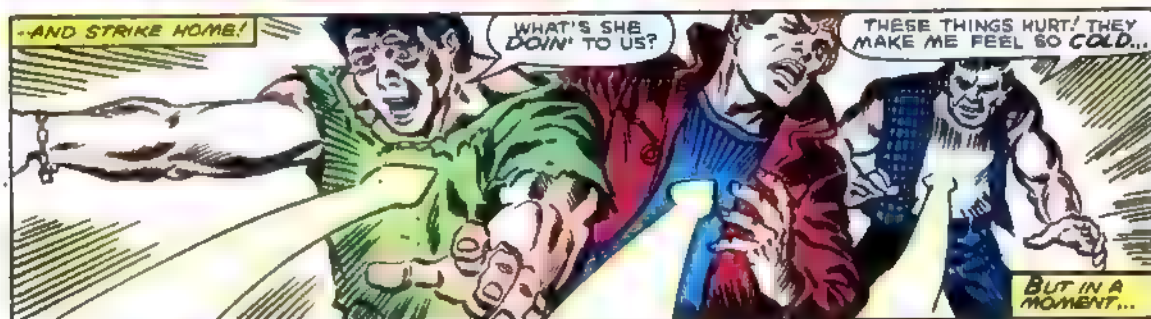
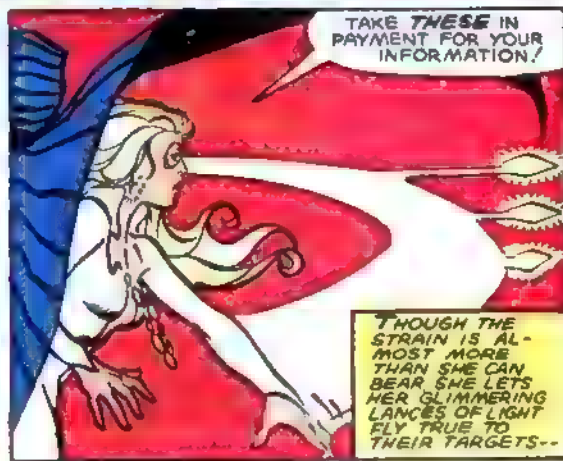
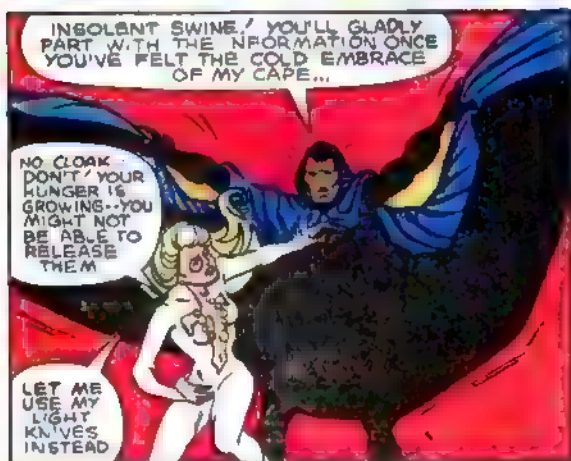
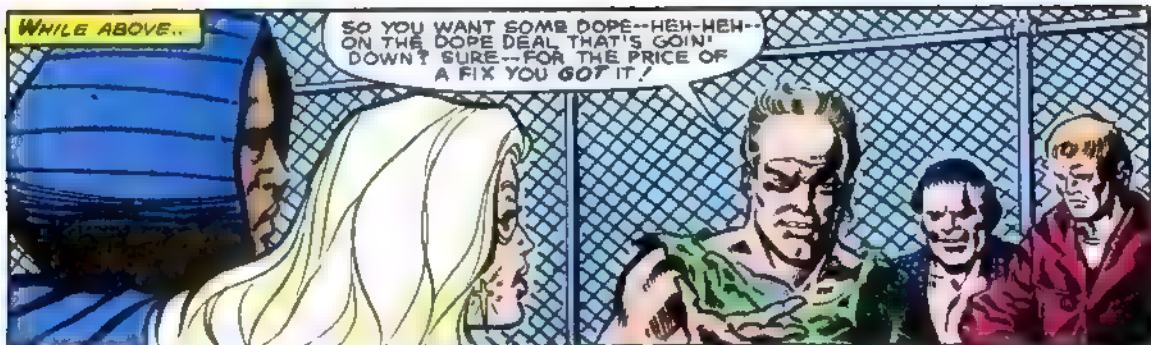
WHY IS THAT, STREET-SCUM?

HUH? WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!

EVEN AS CLOAK & DAGGER STEP FROM THE DARK DIMENSION THAT COMPRISES CLOAK'S BODY, SILVERMANE REACTS-- THE LIGHT IS NEARER NOW!

IN A MINDLESS FRENZY, THE UNDEAD CREATURE SCRABBLES TOWARDS THAT LIGHT, METAL FEET AND FISTS SMASHING PURCHASE IN THE DANK WALLS.

HE MUST HAVE HIS LIGHT.





WE WILL TRAVEL BUT A SHORT DISTANCE SO AS NOT TO DRAIN YOU FURTHER!

TH- THEY'RE GONE, BUT HOW-?!



YOW! THE GROUND IS SHAKING--CRACKING!

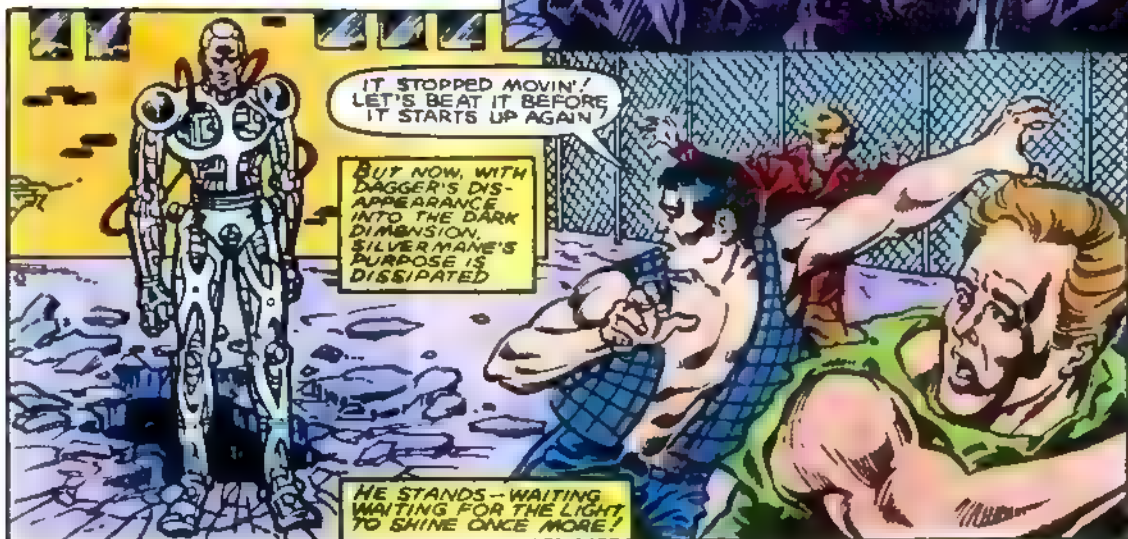
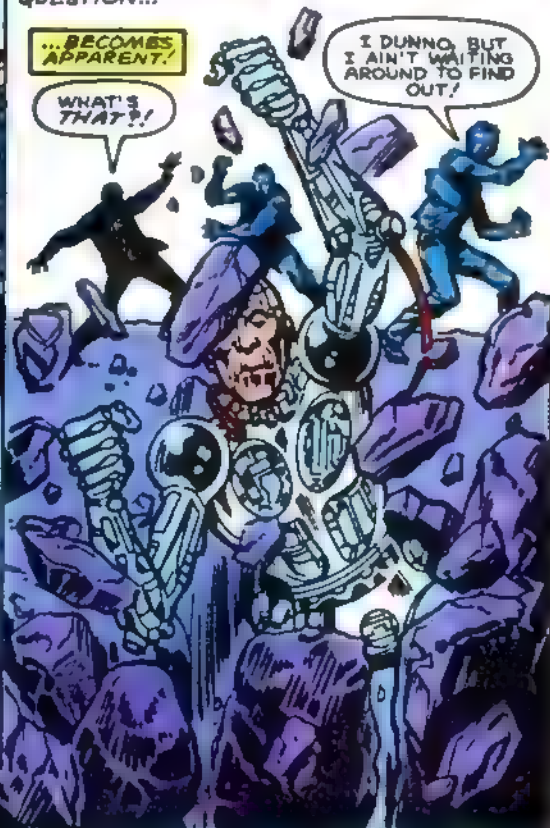
DID THEY DO THIS, OR...

EVEN AS THE LAST OF DAGGER'S LIGHT SLOWLY FADES WITHIN THE FOLDS OF CLOAK'S CAPE, THE ANSWER TO FAST EDDIE'S UNFINISHED QUESTION...

...BECOMES APPARENT!

WHAT'S THAT?!

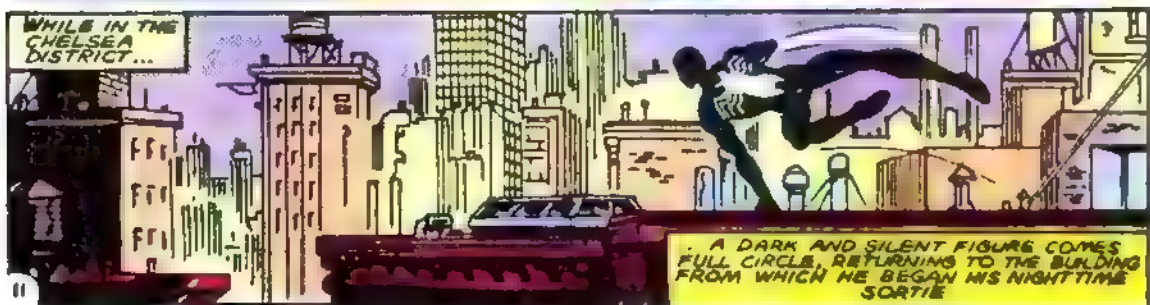
I DUNNO, BUT I AIN'T WAITING AROUND TO FIND OUT!



IT STOPPED MOVIN'! LET'S BEAT IT BEFORE IT STARTS UP AGAIN!

BUT NOW, WITH DAGGER'S DISAPPEARANCE INTO THE DARK DIMENSION, SILVER MANE'S PURPOSE IS DISSIPATED

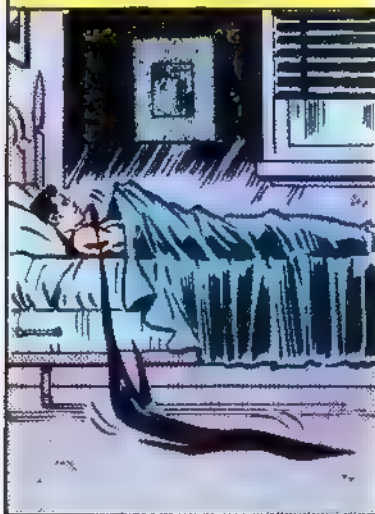
HE STANDS--WAITING WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO SHINE ONCE MORE!



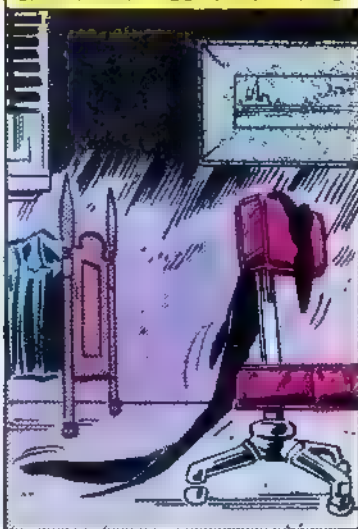
WHILE IN THE CHELSEA DISTRICT...

A DARK AND SILENT FIGURE COMES FULL CIRCLE, RETURNING TO THE BUILDING FROM WHICH HE BEGAN HIS NIGHTTIME SORTIE

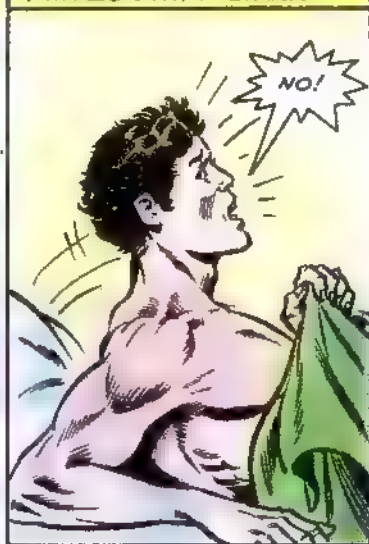
RETURNING PETER PARKER TO HIS BED, THE COSTUME SLINKS FROM HIM, CONTENT IN ITS NIGHT'S WORK



IN A MOMENT, IT HAS DRAPED ITSELF ONCE AGAIN ON ITS CHAIR AND ALL IS AS IT WAS.



THAT'S WHEN PETER PARKER AWAKES WITH A START!



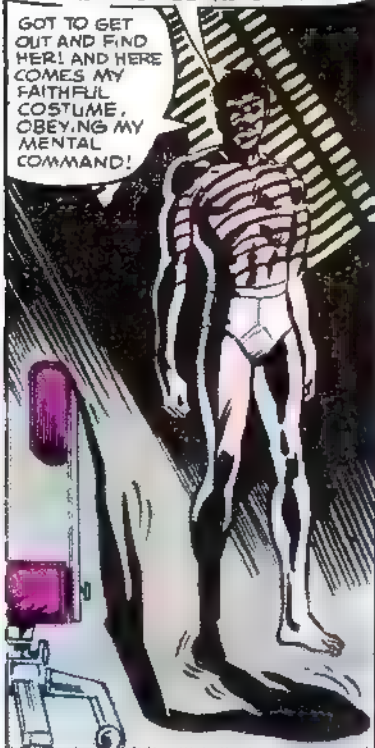
WHEW! ONE OF THOSE NIGHTMARES AGAIN! NO WONDER I HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING WELL LATELY!

I'M SO BUSHED RIGHT NOW I FEEL LIKE I HAVEN'T SLEPT AT ALL!

WAIT! I REMEMBER. I WAS GONNA LOOK FOR CLOAK AND DAGGER!

YEAH, DAGGER! SHE'S THE ONE WHO CAN HELP STOP THE MENACE OF SILVERMANE, I'M ALMOST SURE OF IT!

GOT TO GET OUT AND FIND HER! AND HERE COMES MY FAITHFUL COSTUME, OBEYING MY MENTAL COMMAND!

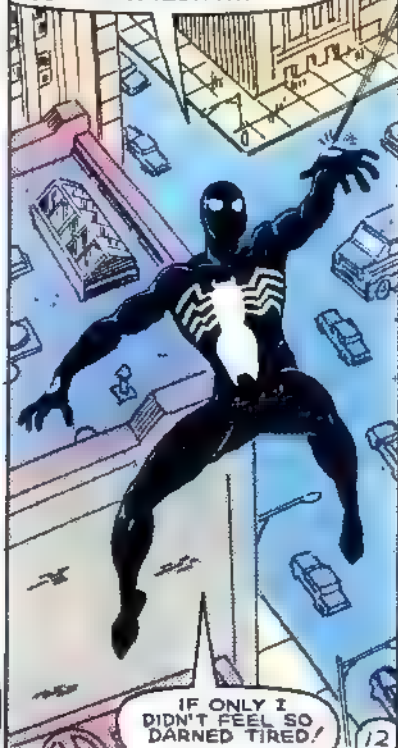


I'D BETTER CALL FELICIA AND SEE IF SHE WANTS TO JOIN ME AS THE BLACK CAT. IF I DIDN'T, SHE'D NEVER SPEAK TO ME AGAIN!



THAT'S FUNNY-- THERE'S NO ANSWER AT HER PLACE! SHE PROMISED ME SHE WOULDN'T TRY AND TACKLE SILVERMANE ALONE! WHERE COULD SHE BE?

WELL, I'LL CHECK IN WITH HER LATER. RIGHT NOW THERE'S A CITY THAT NEEDS SOME PROTECTION!



IF ONLY I DIDN'T FEEL SO DARNED TIRED!



SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING I TRY TO DO LATELY GETS ALL BALLED UP. CAN'T EVEN SEEM TO SLEEP PROPERLY

I'M SURE MY LIFE WOULD WORK A LOT MORE SMOOTHLY IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO OUT AND PLAY HERO ALL THE TIME!

YEAH! A NICE, ORDINARY EXISTENCE, THAT'S THE TICKET!

WHILE, IN THE REALM OF "NICE, ORDINARY EXISTENCE"...

OH, SHA SHAN, IT ISN'T RIGHT FOR YOU TO SPY ON FLASH THIS WAY! HE MUST HAVE HIS REASONS FOR SNEAKING OUT WITHOUT TELLING YOU

MORNING, FLASHER, OL' BOY!

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS, THOMPSON? COULD BE DANGEROUS!

YOU GOT GUTS, FLASH! WE CAN USE A MAN LIKE YOU IN OUR ORGANIZATION.

YEH, I'M SURE!

AND IN THE HOME OF HARRY AND LIZ OSBORN...

HARRY, I CAN'T WAIT FOR OUR BABY TO BE BORN.

ME TOO, LIZ!

I CAN'T BEAR TO TELL HER THAT WITH THE BUSINESS TROUBLES I'VE BEEN HAVING, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD THIS BABY

BUT WHAT CAN I DO--?

AND AT THE FOREST HILLS HOME OF PETER'S AUNT...

FACE IT, MAY, WE'RE JUST NOT MAKING ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP THIS PLACE ABOVE WATER.

I KNOW, NATHAN, BUT THE WHOLE IDEA WAS TO GIVE OUR FRIENDS A CHEAP ALTERNATIVE TO THE OLD FOLKS HOME. WE CAN'T TURN THEM OUT INTO THE STREET!

AND AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE...

I'M SO LONELY FOR NED SINCE HE WENT ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT FOR THE PAPER! THIS ISN'T THE WAY MARRIAGE IS SUPPOSED TO WORK!

J. ROBERTSON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

BETTY LEEDS

I DON'T KNOW, I JUST DON'T KNOW...

AM I DOING A GOOD JOB AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF? IT SEEMS I'M SURLY ALL THE TIME, SNAPPING AT THE WHOLE STAFF!

MAYBE IT IS TOO BIG A JOB FOR ME! MAYBE I JUST CAN'T CUT IT!

WHILE, IN THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE OF THE SELF-SAME BUILDING...

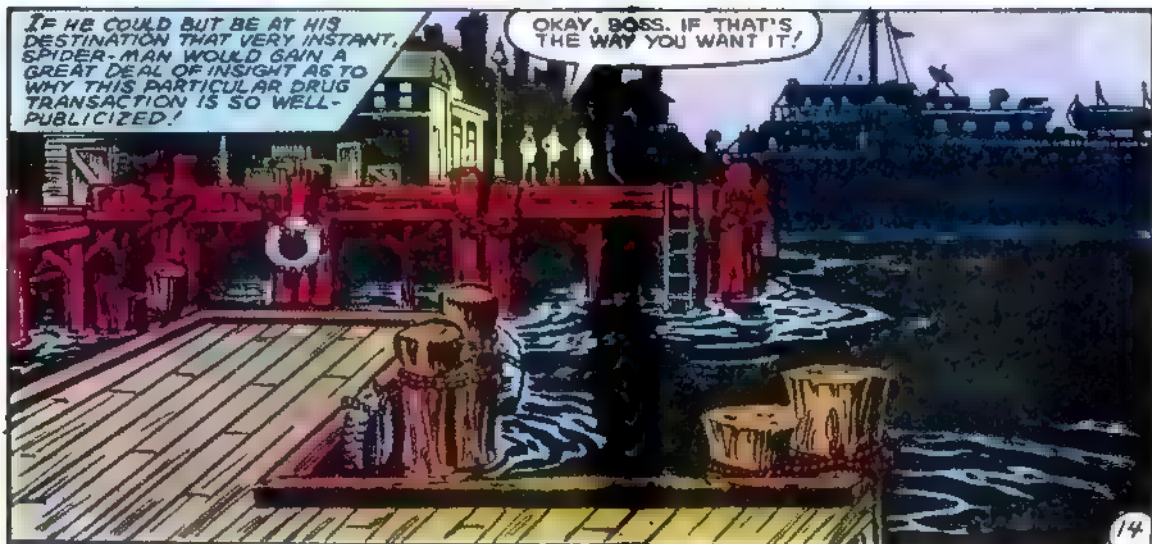
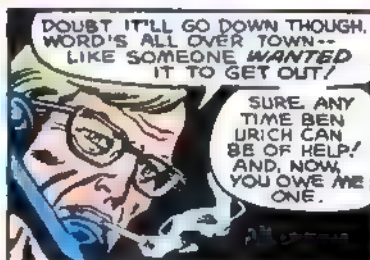
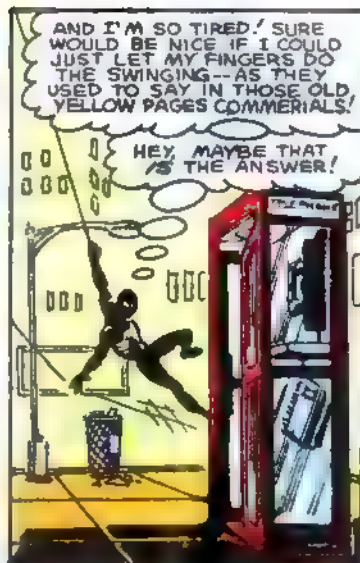
DON'T KNOW WHEN I'VE FELT THIS GOOD! TURNING THE EDITORIAL REINS OVER TO JOE ROBERTSON WAS THE BEST MOVE I EVER MADE

WELL, SECOND BEST COUNTING THE DECISION I JUST MADE!

OKAY. NOT EVERYONE CAN BE MISERABLE.

*FOR THE SECRET OF JONAH'S BIG DECISION, SEE THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #18, ON SALE THIS AUGUST--DANNY.

YEAH, ORDINARY FOLKS DON'T KNOW HOW EASY THEY HAVE IT!





THAT /S THE WAY
I WANT IT!

THE BUYER WILL BE HERE
SOON./ JUST CONTINUE
TO UNLOAD THE HEROIN...
AND BE READY WHEN HE
ARRIVES.

SURE! BUT I DON'T LIKE
HAVIN' TO WAIT/ IT'S BETTER
WHEN YOU CAN MAKE YOUR
SALE FAST AND GET OUT!



ARE YOU QUESTIONING
THE ROSE'S ORDERS?

NO, BOSS IT'S JUST--

THAT
WILL BE
ALL!



JOHNSTON, VARLEY, IT'S
TIME WE WERE GOING!

RIGHT,
BOSS.

WHERE
TO?

JUST OUT OF SIGHT
OF THOSE MEN. I DON'T
KNOW WHAT THE KINGPIN HAS
IN MIND-- BUT THIS IS NO
WAY TO RUN A DRUG SALE!



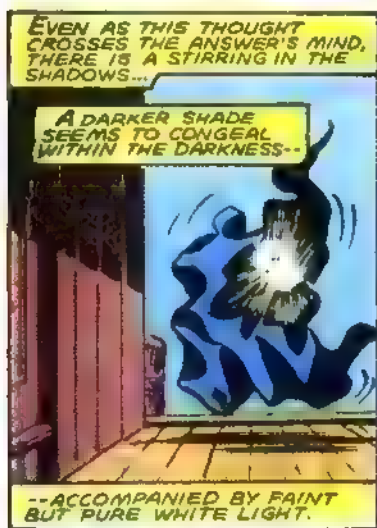
IT'S AN
ELABORATE
PLOT OF
SOME KIND,
AND I'D LIKE
TO LEARN
MORE.

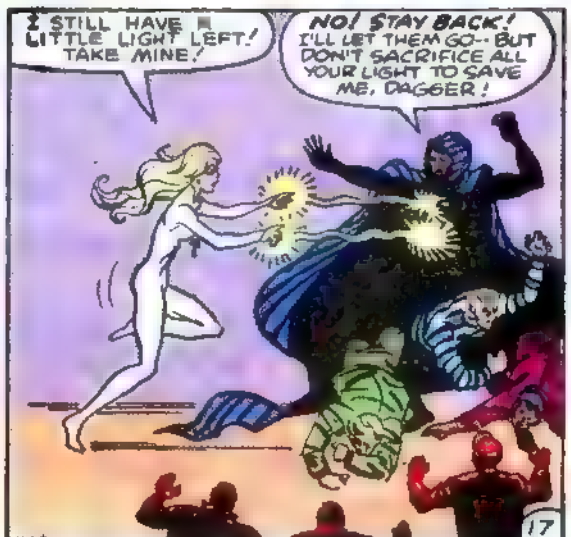
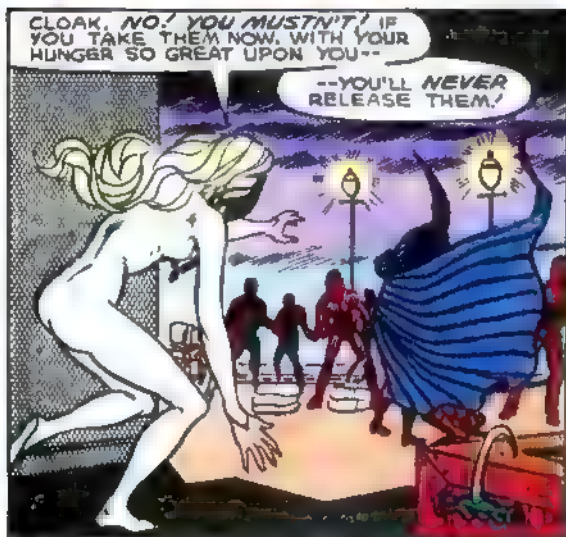
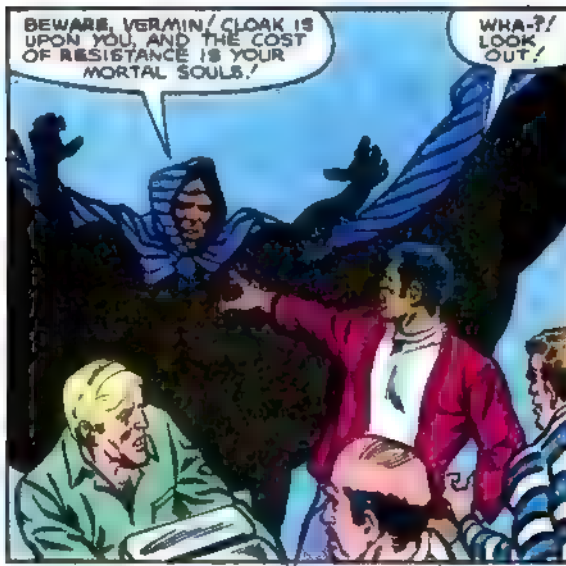


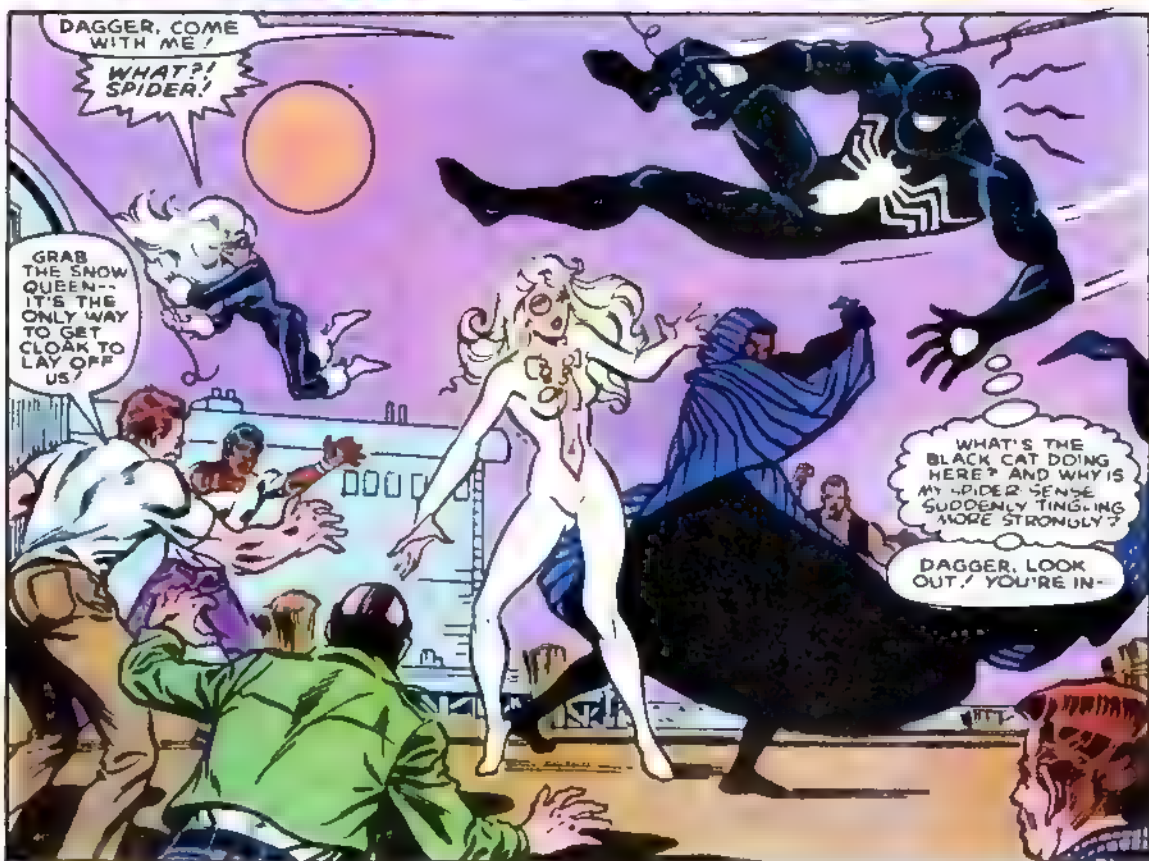
I TELL YA THIS JUST AIN'T KOSHER!
NOBODY SETS UP A DEAL TO MOVE
A HUNDRED POUNDS OF PURE MORSE,
THEN LEAVES IT SITIN' OUT
IN THE OPEN!

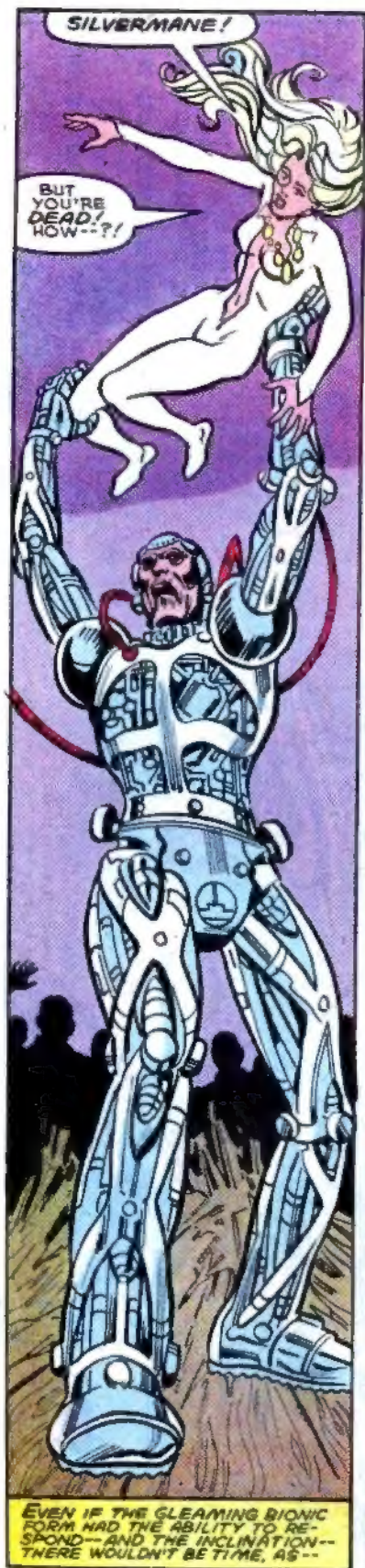
YOU'RE RIGHT,
PHIL

Y'KNOW, MAYBE I'M JUST
GETTING SPOOKED, BUT I COULD
SWEAR SOMEONE WAS WATCHIN' US!

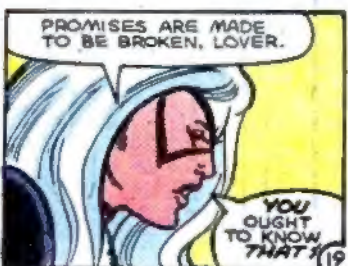
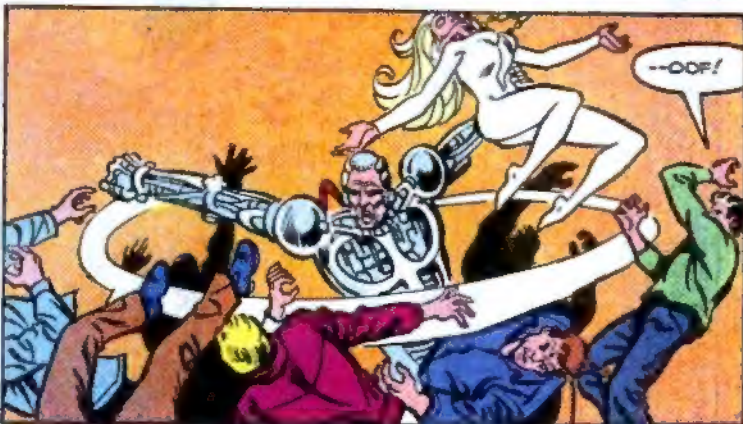








EVEN IF THE GLEAMING BIONIC FORM HAD THE ABILITY TO RESPOND--AND THE INCLINATION--THERE WOULDN'T BE TIME, AS--





STAND BACK, BOTH OF YOU!
I SENSE THAT THIS COLD
METALLIC MONSTER SEEKS
DAGGER'S LIGHT!

IF YOU PROVOKE
HIM, HE MIGHT
SOMEHOW DRAIN
HER OF HER VERY
LIFE!

LET ME
CONFRONT HIM!



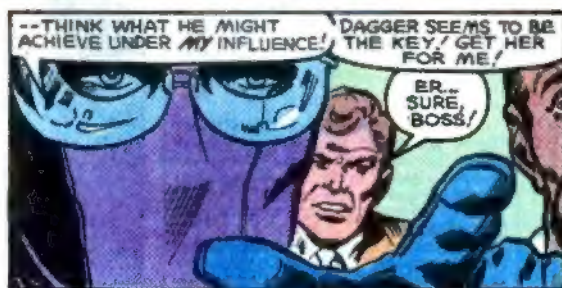
PERHAPS I CAN USE MY CAPE
TO CONFOUND--THEN CAPTURE
HIM!



WHILE WATCHING THIS TABLEAU FROM HIS
HIDDEN VANTAGE POINT...

AH, I SUSPECTED
THERE WAS MORE HERE THAN A
SIMPLE DRUG OPERATION.

IF THE
"CORPSE" OF SILVERMANE
CAN HOLD THESE SUPER-
POWERED BEINGS AT BAY--



--THINK WHAT HE MIGHT
ACHIEVE UNDER MY INFLUENCE!

DAGGER SEEMS TO BE
THE KEY! GET HER
FOR ME!

ER--
SURE,
BOSS!



I DON'T
LIKE THIS,
JOHNSTON!

ME NEITHER,
VARLEY-- BUT
WE CAN'T DISOBEY
THE ROSE, C'MON!

HMM. ADMIRABLE
CONTROL THE ROSE
HAS OVER HIS
UNDERLINGS. I
MUST MENTION IT
TO THE KINGPIN!



BUT TO THE BUSINESS
AT HAND!

I AM BEGINNING TO
GLEAN THE NATURE OF
DAGGER'S POWER--

--AND UNLESS
I AM MISTAKEN, SHE
MAY BE THE... ANSWER TO
MORE THAN JUST THE DIFFI-
CULTY WITH SILVERMANE!



SHE MAY BE THE SOLUTION TO
THE AFFLICTION WHICH AFFECTS
THE KINGPIN'S WIFE! I MUST
CONTACT HIM-- SEE IF THIS REVE-
LATION CHANGES HIS WISH THAT I
NOT INTERFERE!

THE ROSE'S
MEN-- ARE
THEY ATTACKING
THE CAT...?

GET HER,
JOHNSTON!



SUDDENLY, SWOOPING DOWN FROM HIS PERCH, THE ANSWER STRIKES!

NO! THE GIRL IS MINE!

AS I PREDICTED --THE KINGPIN INSTRUCTED ME TO BRING HIM DAGGER IMMEDIATELY-- REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES!

THE ANSWER! GOT TO SNARE HIM WITH MY WEBBING!

PWIP

NO! HE'S FLOWN TOO FAR AWAY!

WE GOT NO CHANCE AT THE GIRL, NOW! BUT, WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE ROSE EMPTY HANDED!

YEAH, LET'S GRAB THE HEROIN AND SPLIT!

FOUL FELONS! CAN YOU THINK OF NAUGHT BUT YOUR FILTHY DRUGS AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

I MUST PURSUE DAGGER! BUT DESPITE THE ENERGY SHE GAVE ME, I WILL NEED STILL MORE LIGHT TO SUSTAIN ME AS I TRAVEL THROUGH THE DARK DIMENSION--

--YOUR LIGHT!

BUT WAIT, EVEN AS I ENFOLD THEM IN MY CAPE, SILVERMANE ENTERS MY DARKNESS AS WELL!

BUT WHY--? WHAT POSSIBLE REASON--?

NO MATTER! I WILL TAKE HIM--AND HIS LIGHT AS WELL!

CAN'T LET THEM LEAVE US HIGH AND DRY--GOT TO TRY AND GET A SPIDER-TRACER ON SILVERMANE BEFORE THEY'RE--

--GONE! BLAST, I WAS A SPLIT-SECOND TOO LATE!

NOW I'VE LOST THEM--

--AND DAGGER!

AND THE CITY WILL PAY FOR MY MISTAKE!

NEXT:

THE FINAL ANSWER!